If the above caſe is worthy of your mature reflexions, it will be a great ſatisfaction to,

SIR,

Your moſt humble ſervant,

Tho. Woollcombe.

XIV. *A Deſcription of a beautiful* Chineſe *Pheaſant; the Feathers and Drawing of which were ſent from* Canton *to* John Fothergill, *M. D. F. R. S. By Mr.* George Edwards, *F. R. S.*

Read March 7, 1765.

THE Argus is a ſpecies of the pheaſant, the largeſt of that genus yet known, being equal in ſize to a full-grown turkey-cock, from one of the moſt northern provinces of China. I take it to be a male bird, by the beautyful red ſkin ou the fore-part of the head, and its fine blue changeable creſt and neck; the females of all the different ſpecies of pheaſants yet diſcovered having little or no gaudy colours about their heads.

The beak is made like that of our pheaſant, of a yellowiſh-white colour: the fore-part of the head, and the begining of the throat, is covered with a fine ſcarlet ſkin, ſeemingly void of feathers, but is rough with a kind of grain. The irides of the eyes are orange-coloured, more yellow next the pupil, and redder

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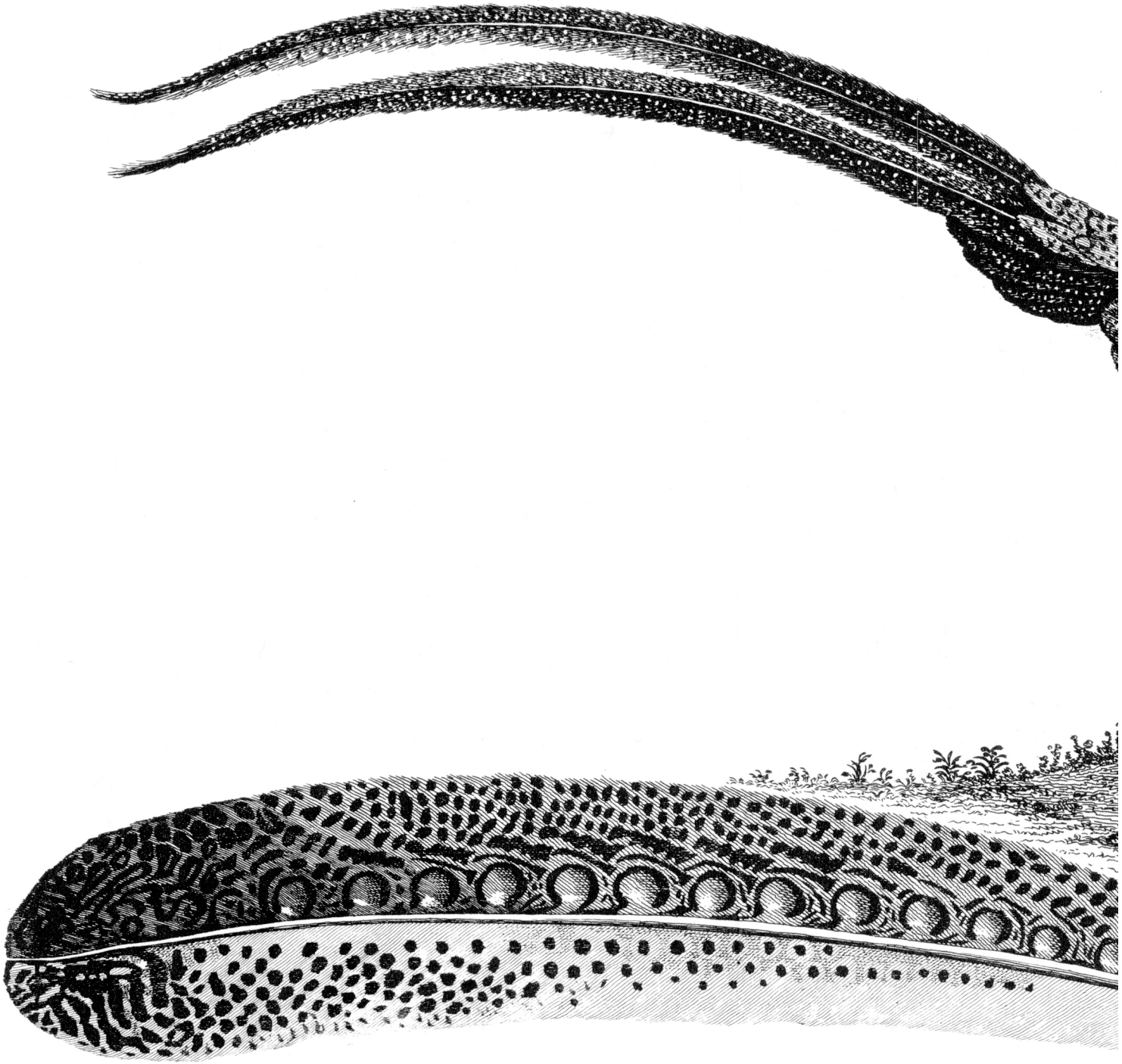
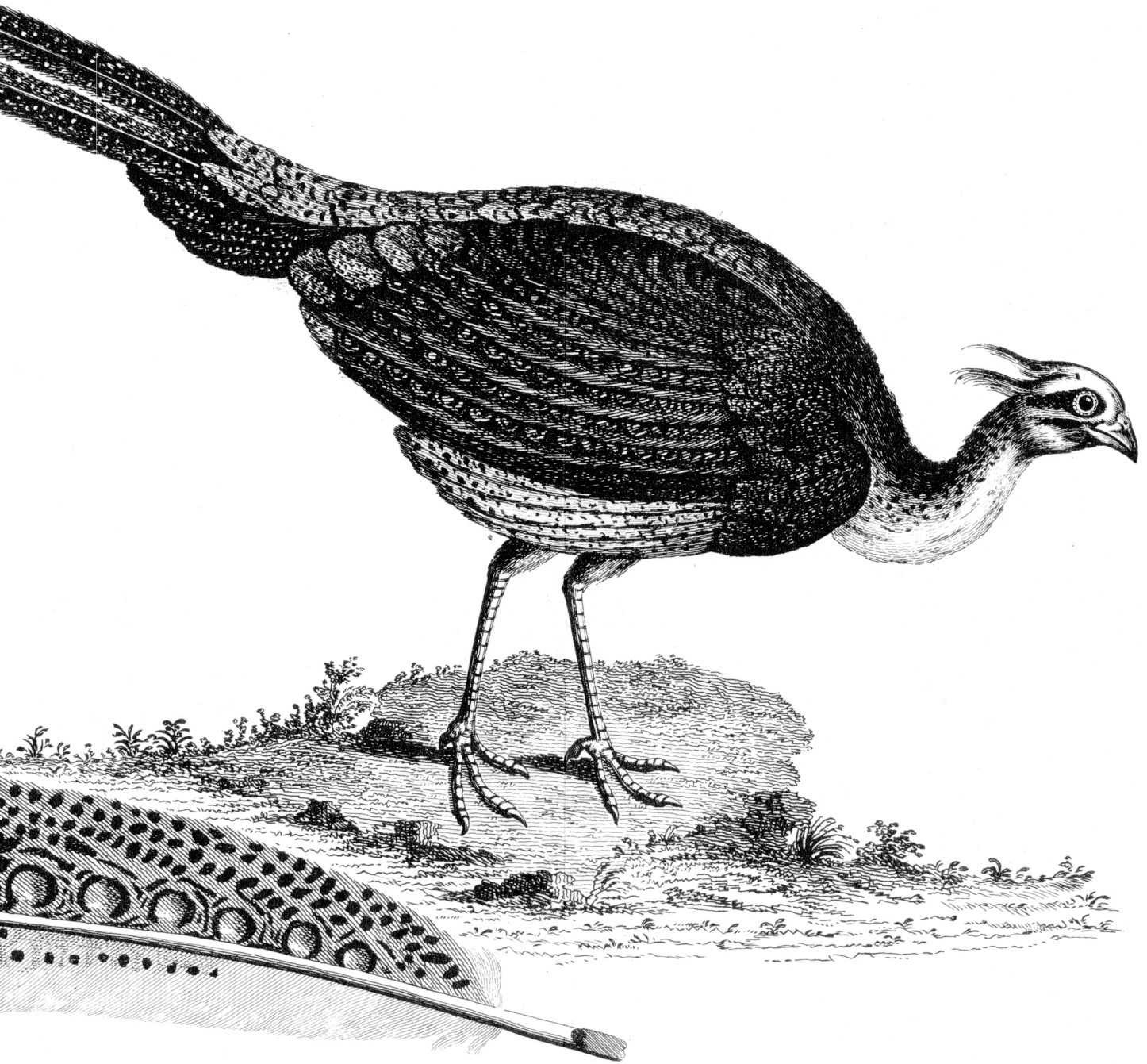


The ARGUS *or* LUEN. *A Species of Pheasant from the Northermos*

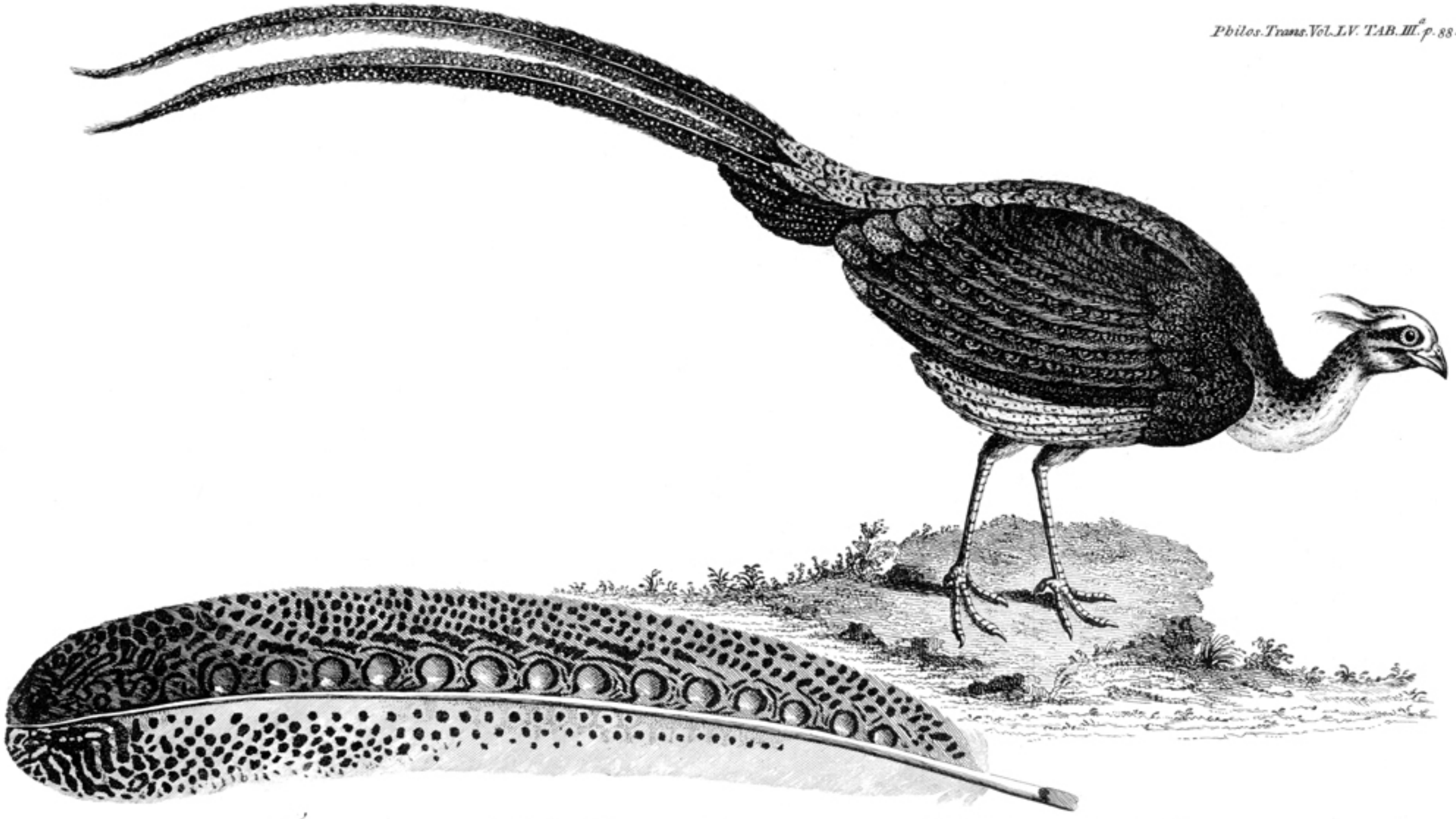


sant from the Northermost part of China, of the size of a Cock-Turkey.

J. Mynde del. et Sc.

redder in their outer circumference; the ſkin round the eye is duſky, or black: it hath alſo blackiſh marks proceeding from the corners of the mouth; the top and hinder part of the head and neck are of a fine blue changeable colour: it has a creſt of long looſe feathers, which I ſuppoſe it can raiſe or lower at pleaſure: the lower part of the neck, the back, and covert feathers of the wings, are covered with black or duſky feathers, having a ſmall broken tranſverſe mixture of reddiſh brown: the wings, when cloſed, meaſure about ſeventeen inches, though the prime quill fall ſhort of the length of thoſe above them: the wing hath about twenty quills, the outermoſt ſhorteſt, which gradually lengthens to the fifth; the nine outermoſt quills are of a lightiſh yellow brown, ſpotted with duſky ſpots, of the ſize of tares, except on their inner webs, next the ſhafts, where they are of a duſky brown, with white ſpots as ſmall as muſtard ſeeds; the ſhafts of theſe feathers are of a lead colour; the eleven remaining quills, which characterize this bird, are of a darker brown than the foregoing, marked with round and longiſh duſky ſpots on both the inner and outer webs. What is moſt extraordinary in theſe feathers is, that each of them has on the outer web, cloſe adjoining to the ſhaft, a row of very diſtinct ſpots like eyes, ſo ſhaded as to appear imboſſed: they are larger and ſmaller as the feathers are to the outer quills; they are from twelve to fifteen on each feather; the largeſt eyes are an inch in a diameter, they are incircled firſt with black, and without that with light brown, their ſhafts are white; the eyes in the two or three innermoſt quills are not ſo regularly marked, they loſe their roundneſs, and

become confuſed; theſe beautiful eyes are not ſeen, unleſs the wings are a little ſpread; the ſingle feather, of half the natural length, figured in the plate [ſee TAB. III.] will give an idea of the eyes and ſpots beyond deſcription; the inner coverts of the wings are brown with black ſpots; the under ſides of the quills are marked like the upper, but fainter coloured, the inner webs edged with light aſh colour, which forms a whitiſh bed within ſide of the wing. The throat, breaſt, rump, and covert feathers, on the upper ſide of the tail, are of a dull orange colour, with round duſky ſpots; the tail hath fourteen feathers of very unequal lengths, the middlemoſt being each of them three feet long, the next, on each ſide, 18 inches, which gradually ſhorten to the outermoſt on each ſide, which are each 12 inches, their colour is duſky, with a tincture of bright brown, the outer feathers are dotted with white as ſmall as muſtard ſeeds; the next within theſe have larger ſpots, leſs regularly formed; the two long middle feathers have round white ſpots, ſurrounded with black, on their outer webs, and larger irregular brown ſpots, ſurrounded with duſky on their inner webs, which are aſh coloured; the lower belly, and covert feathers beneath the tail, are duſky with a confuſed mixture of brown; the legs and feet are like thoſe of turkeys, with three toes forward, and one backward; the legs, feet, and claws, are of a greeniſh aſh colour; the head and legs of this bird, both in my figure and deſcription were ſupplied from the curious drawing that was ſent from China, with the bird's ſkin, which had neither head nor feet adhering to it.



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J. Miller delin.t Sc.